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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/787,377	08/31/2001	Marco Johannes Christina Van Amelsvoort	9424.147USWO	9632

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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, BLAIR M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3634

DATE MAILED: 08/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/787,377

Applicant(s)

VAN AMELSVOORT, MARCO  
JOHANNES CHRISTIN

Examiner

Blair M. Johnson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM  
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2004.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-27 and 29 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-27 and 29 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 20,21,23-27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German 19537190.

'190 discloses a blind comprising vertical slats 10. One region 12 of the slats has perforations 18 for light transmission while the other region 14 is of a material which is designed to prevent people from looking through that portion, thereby indicating an ability to subdue light passage therethrough. While the upper portion in '190 is the light transmitting portion and the lower portion is the light blocking portion, which differs from the presently claimed device, one of ordinary skill in the art faced with Applicant's problem of blocking light at the top of the blind and permitting light through the bottom of the blind would have simply reversed the arrangement of these two portions. In other words, the structure is provided by '190. The tailoring of this structure to achieve specific objectives in window shading would have been well within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art. It is clear that the portion which has perforations for the purpose of allowing light to be transmitted therethrough would permit human viewing therethrough at least to some extent.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German patent '109 as applied above, and further in view of Levert.

Levert discloses window blinds which have portions which permit light transmission therethrough. Levert further equates perforations with "partly translucent" material for this reason, column 2, line 37. In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to modify German '190 whereby his perforated portion is instead made of a

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material which is partly translucent.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The issues presently in this case are the same issues as previously addressed in the final Office action of 1/23/04. To summarize, the presence of light blocking portions and light transmitting portions on a set of vertical blinds is taught by '190. The respective locations of the light blocking and light transmitting portions are subject to the shading results desired by the user. Merely recognizing that it is advantageous to block light at the top of the blind and to modify '190 accordingly does not involve a novel and nonobvious improvement.


### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blair M. Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0526. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (703) 308-2486. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Blair M. Johnson  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3634

BMJ  
8/17/04